

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claims 3-4, 8 and 10, such that the status of the claims is as follows:

3.(Currently amended):A polypeptide ~~consisting of~~ consisting essentially of amino acid 25 to amino acid 250 of full length human erythropoietin receptor protein, a human erythropoietin receptor extracellular domain, said polypeptide having a specific affinity for human erythropoietin, and wherein said polypeptide has a molecular weight of 29 kDa, ~~and contains only amino acids corresponding to the extracellular domain of the human erythropoietin receptor.~~

4.(Currently amended):A purified antibody having specific binding affinity for human erythropoietin receptor, said antibody produced against a purified fragment ~~of~~ consisting essentially of amino acid 25 to amino acid 250 of full length human erythropoietin receptor protein corresponding to a human erythropoietin receptor extracellular domain with a molecular weight of 29 kDa, ~~wherein the fragment contains only amino acids corresponding to the extracellular domain of the human erythropoietin receptor.~~

5.(previously amended):An binding assay composition comprising:

- (a) a solid phase reagent; and
- (b) the polypeptide of claim 3 operably coupled to said reagent.

6.(previously amended):An immunoassay composition comprising:

- (a) a solid phase reagent; and
- (b) an antibody of claim 4 operably coupled to said reagent.

8.(Currently amended):A purified antibody having specific binding affinity for a purified ~~human erythropoietin receptor extracellular domain~~ polypeptide consisting of approximately amino acid 25

to 250 of a human erythropoietin receptor extracellular domain, wherein said polypeptide is expressed in E-coli, has an affinity for human erythropoietin, and does not include extraneous-any amino acids sequence from non-human DNA: GST, human erythropoietin receptor signal peptide, human erythropoietin membrane spanning domain or human erythropoietin cytoplasmic domain.

9. (Previously amended):An immunoassay composition comprising:

- (a) a solid phase reagent; and
- (b) an antibody of claim 8 operably coupled to said reagent.

10. (Currently amended):A method for obtaining an antibody having specific binding affinity for human erythropoietin receptor polypeptide, said method comprising:

contacting a non-human mammal with a purified preparation of an extracellular domain fragment of human erythropoietin receptor polypeptide consisting essentially of amino acid 25 to 250 of a human erythropoietin receptor extracellular domain, wherein the fragment contains only native human erythropoietin receptor and has a molecular weight of 29 kDa, and  
collecting said antibody from said non-human mammal.

11.(new)      The polypeptide of claim 3 wherein the full length human erythropoietin receptor protein wherein the full length human erythropoietin receptor protein is encoded by a full length human erythropoietin receptor DNA and the polypeptide consisting essentially of amino acid 25 to amino acid 250 of the full length human erythropoietin receptor protein corresponds to the region of the full length human erythropoietin receptor DNA defined on the 5' end by a forward primer SEQ ID 1 and defined at the 3' end by reverse primer SEQ ID 2.

12.(new)      The polypeptide of claim 11 wherein the full length human erythropoietin receptor DNA is LAP 37.

13.(new) A polypeptide consisting of a free human erythropoietin receptor extracellular domain, said polypeptide having a specific affinity for human erythropoietin, and wherein the human erythropoietin receptor extracellular domain is expressed from a region of a full length human erythropoietin receptor DNA defined on the 5' end by a forward primer SEQ ID 1 and defined at the 3' end by reverse primer SEQ ID 2.

14.(new) The polypeptide of claim 13 wherein the full length human erythropoietin receptor DNA is from LAP 37 SEQ ID 4.

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